

FIELD REPORTS
FALL 1983

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor
211 Richards Street
Iowa City IA 52240

WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS (JPSa)

The hot, sunny, dry, hazy weather pattern established in June continued through August. Many heat and low rainfall records were reported, especially in southern and western areas of the state. Unseasonably hot weather prevailed, making this the second hottest August on record. The state averaged about 20 days with temperatures over 90--about three times normal. Readings of 100 or higher were reported on 20 days at Leon and on 11 days at Bloomfield; not since 1955 had a higher temperature than 108 (at Des Moines and Keosauqua) been recorded. Precipitation occurred in the latter third of the month, but the rainfall deficiency which began on July 4 or earlier caused areas of extreme drought, especially in southeast Iowa.

September too was warm for the first ten days and last six days. Precipitation continued to be subnormal over the southwest third of the state, but some localities experienced heavy rainfall, notably 9.6 inches at Marble Rock and, in one night, 5.39 inches at Mt. Pleasant. A state-wide freeze occurred on 21-23 September, while damaging hailstorms on 5-6 September battered Pocahontas, Montgomery, and Mills counties. Winds on the same dates reached 92 mph at Red Oak.

Mild, cool, wet weather characterized October and most of November. The first measurable snowfall occurred on 13 October, but both temperatures and rainfall were near normal for the period. Only in the last week of November, when a violent snow and ice storm covered west, central, and northern Iowa, was the generally warm, dry weather pattern broken.

GENERAL TRENDS

The warm weather seemed to be associated with a number of late migrants, although my method of identifying unusual dates has improved (see Comment). Evening Grosbeaks staged an invasion and the Northern Goshawk invasion of the last two years was still in evidence. Uncommon species seen in more than usual numbers included Greater Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Sanderling, and Pine Warbler. Carolina Wrens are returning to Iowa. In Keosauqua, 150 sparrows were found dead on one lawn in one day. This was attributed to pesticides use on spider mites in soybean fields; 100 dead robins were reported from another location (JPSa).

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The most viewed bird of the season was Iowa's fifth Sabine's Gull at Saylorville Res. A Brant shot in Fremont Co. would be only the second definite record for the state. Great-tailed Grackles were still present at Riverton A. Other accidentals included a Black Scoter and another female Black-headed type grosbeak. Casual species included Ibis sp., Surf Scoter, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Bewick's Wren. Rare among the regular species was a Varied Thrush.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

Common Loon: 2 Aug sightings may represent summering birds: 4 Aug at Big Creek L. (TH) and 13 Aug at IPL Ponds (CJB, et al.). Up to 6 migrants were seen on major water areas from 31 Oct to 13 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: An adult with a downy chick was observed at Larson M. on 24 Aug (PM). Peak migration was 133 at Willow Sl. on 2 Oct (BLW); 1 at L. Manawa on 26 Nov was the latest (Melba Wigg fide TB).

- Horned Grebe:** 7 were at Spirit L. on 6 Oct (DCH); the rest were seen on reservoirs from 31 Oct to 20 Nov with peak of 30 at Saylorville on 12 Nov (SD, JPSc).
- Eared Grebe:** 2 at Elm L. on 31 Oct (SD) were the only reported.
- Western Grebe:** 9 (3 dark phase, others not determined) stopped briefly at Coralville Res. on 16 Oct (THK, CJB, TJS).
- American White Pelican:** 2 were at Sunken Grove on 13 Aug (RVH); peaks were 800 at Saylorville Res. on 23 Sep (HZ), 150 at Spirit L. on 3 Oct (DCH), and 80 at Willow Sl. on 5 Oct (BLW); the last were 4 at Rathbun Res. on 7 Nov (MAH), a third latest record.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Peaks were 300 at Coralville Res. on 29 Sep (TJS), 180 at Willow Sl. on 2 Oct (BLW), and 152 at Saylorville Res. on 6 Oct (HZ); the latest was at Saylorville on 25 Nov (FL).
- American Bittern:** 2 each reported from Johnson and Story counties, 1 from Dickinson; the last on 11 Nov at Hendrickson M. (SD) ties the second latest.
- Great Blue Heron:** The peak at Coralville Res. was 150 on 16 Oct with the last there on 19 Nov (THK).
- Great Egret:** Peaks were 82 at Coralville Res. on 29 Sep (TJS) and 39 at Saylorville Res. on 30 Sep (HZ); 1 in Marshall Co. on 7 Nov (MPr fide BPr) is the second latest.
- Little Blue Heron:** 2 imm. each were seen at Sweet M. on 5 Aug (RKM) and at Nashua on 6 Aug (RKM, FM).
- Cattle Egret:** Singles in Fremont Co. on 5 Aug (B. J. Rose fide TB) and Hancock Co. on 20 Oct (JLH) were the only reports, many fewer than last year.
- Green-backed Heron:** 1 at Weise Sl. on 21 Oct (JR) ties the second latest.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 17 at Willow Sl. on 6 Sep (BLW) was the most reported.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** An imm. was at Riverton A. on 14 Sep (*MN). Details were given for 2 imm. at Coralville Res. on 5 Sep (THK, TJS, CJB).
- Ibis sp.:** 2 birds at Otter Creek M. on 27 Sep had no white on the face and appeared to have dark eyes, findings suggestive of Glossy Ibis (*FM, *RKM, Ed Weiner).
- Tundra Swan:** All were seen from 21 to 30 Nov with peak of 165 at Lock and Dam 9 (FM); others were 25 at Barringer Sl. on 24 Nov (Harvey Baker fide RVH), 1 unidentified swan at L. Manawa on 25 Nov (BP, LPa), 1 at Amana L. on 26 Nov (LH fide CJB), and 1 at George Wyth S.P. on 28 Nov (RKM, TJS).
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** 4 were at Rathbun Res. on 23 Nov (RC).
- Ross' Goose:** Several were at DeSoto N.W.R. on 20 Nov (Erv Klaas fide JJD).
- Brant:** A Black Brant was shot 6 n. of Riverton A. on 18 Nov and photographs were taken (Don Priebe fide *RP, Carl Priebe).
- Wood Duck:** 1 was still at Big Creek L. on 25 Nov (FL).
- American Black Duck:** 3 were unusual in Sioux Co. on 26 Aug (GJB).
- Northern Shoveler:** 40 were still at Saylorville Res. on 20 Nov (SD, MD).
- Ring-necked Duck:** 300 were at Saylorville Res. on 13 Nov (TB, WRS, BLW) and 1000 on the Keokuk Pool on 20 Nov (THK, CJB, TJS).
- Greater Scaup:** 2 females killed by hunters at Rice L. on 8 Nov were seen in hand (JLH); 3 females were identified by head shape and long wing stripe at Montrose on 20 Nov (*THK, *TJS); 4 males were identified by head shape and size at Lock and Dam 9 on 21 Nov (*RKM); 3 males were identified by head shape and wing stripes at Volga River A. on 25 Nov (*FM).
- Oldsquaw:** Singles were at Amana on 18 Nov (CJB, LH) and George Wyth S.P. on 26 Nov (RKM, TJS).
- Black Scoter:** A female was seen in the sand pits at Colfax (*CJB, *TJS, *THK). A photo was taken of a mounted female shot at Amana L. in 1980 by Lynn Trumpold (CJB).
- Surf Scoter:** 1 of 3 birds shot at Amana L. on 22 Oct (during the IOU fall meeting) by Lynn Trumpold was photographed later (CJB).
- White-winged Scoter:** 3 males were reported, the first of which was seen

by many at the IOU fall meeting: 23 Oct at Coralville Res. (*BLW, *FM, *TJS), 11 Nov at Colfax (*TJS), and 20 Nov s. of Montrose (*TJS). Another bird was identified by the white wing patch se. of Ventura on 21 Oct (JLH).

Hooded Merganser: 29 at Spirit L. on 17 Nov (DCH) and 5 reports of 2 to 7 birds from 20 to 24 Nov suggest a rather sharp migration interval.

Ruddy Duck: 500 were at Saylorville Res. on 12 Nov (SD, JPSc).

Turkey Vulture: 263 were counted at L. Wapello on 12 Sep (TB, DB); 1 in NE Louisa Co. on 19 Nov (PCP, CBI) was quite late.

Osprey: The earliest was at Nashua on 6 Aug (RKM, FM) and the latest at L. Manawa on 23 Oct (BP_a, LP_a).

Northern Harrier: Small numbers were reported by many observers.

Cooper's Hawk: 5 were reported.

Northern Goshawk: 4 of 5 documented sightings were of adults: 31 Oct in NE Madison Co. (*EuA), 11 Nov an imm. at Sweet M. (*RKM), 26 Nov at Red Rock Res. (*GJB), 26 Nov in NE Mills Co. (*BLW), 26 Nov in Cedar Falls (*FM). There were 4 other reports, including 1 dead in Madison Co. (fide EuA).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 was at Sweet M. on 5, 28 Aug (RKM, FM).

Broad-winged Hawk: 600 were migrating in Fremont Co. on 2 Oct (Don Priebe fide RP); 92 were over Iowa City on 22 Sep (TJS); 1 was late in NE Louisa Co. on 29 Oct (PCP, MLP).

Swainson's Hawk: Ron Harms, et al., photographed a remarkable flock of 53 birds on the ground in Pocahontas Co. on 2 Oct, a migration staging event that was witnessed once before in Iowa when 200-300 were seen in Dickinson Co. on 5 Oct 1940 (Williams, N. J. 1940. Migration of Swainson's Hawk in Western Iowa, *Iowa Bird Life* 11:35). Other birds were seen in Lyon, Osceola, and Pottawattamie counties.

Red-tailed Hawk: 35 were migrating at Ames on 13 Oct (SD). Krider's Hawks were reported from Osceola (DCH) and Cherokee (MMB) counties and Harlan's Hawk from Cherokee Co. (MMB).

Ferruginous Hawk: Jean Braley supplied notes (*fide RP) on a bird with rufous on the back and rufous feathered legs seen at close range eating a rabbit e. of Shenandoah on 26 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: The earliest was on 16 Oct in Dallas Co. (EuA, DT).

Golden Eagle: 1-2 were in Allamakee Co. on 21, 25 Nov (RKM, FM).

American Kestrel: 17 were migrating at Ames on 16 Oct (SD).

Merlin: 1 was at Coralville Res. on 10-11 Sep (*MN, *THK) and 1 at Rathbun Res. on 15 Oct (*RC).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 was at Coralville Res. on 2 Oct (*MN); sightings at Ames on 10 Oct, 6 Nov, and 16 Nov may have been the same bird (**PM).

Prairie Falcon: An injured bird in NC Sioux Co. on 21 Sep was taken to the University of Minnesota for rehabilitation (DCH).

Gray Partridge: 2 were in NE Mills Co. on 26 Aug (Eric Nyren fide BLW).

Virginia Rail: 4 were at Hendrickson M. on 24 Sep and 1 there on 9 Oct (SD) is the latest fall record.

Sora: 50 were at Hendrickson M. on 1 Oct, 15 on 9 Oct, and 1 on 15 Oct (SD).

Common Moorhen: 1 was at Waterloo on 4 Oct (RKM, et al.).

Black-bellied Plover: 3 were at Sioux Center on 27 Sep (GJB); 1 lingered at Coralville Res. until 23 Oct (THK, et al.).

Lesser Golden-Plover: 65 was a large fall flock at Coralville Res. on 24 Sep (MCN); 2 at Rathbun Res. on 13 Nov (WMH, MAH) are the third latest.

Semipalmated Plover: 1 at Fairport Fish Hatchery on 23 Oct (JR, et al.) was the second latest on record.

Piping Plover: Singles were at IPL Ponds on 13 Aug (CJB, et al.) and Nashua on 20 Aug (FM, RuH).

Greater Yellowlegs: Peak was 15 at Colo on 7 Aug (SD, JJD); the last were 2 at L. Manawa on 6 Nov (BP_a, LP_a).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Peak was 125 at Colo on 7 Aug (SD); 2 at Coralville Res. on 13 Nov (THK, TJS) are the latest on record.

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 at Coralville Res. on 8 Oct (THK, TJS) are the

second latest; 1 was also late at Ames on 2 Oct (PM).

Willet: 2 were at Coralville Res. on 13 Aug (PCP, CBI); 1 was at Sioux Center on 19 Aug (GJB).

Spotted Sandpiper: 1 at Coralville Res. on 23 Oct (THK, et al.) was the second latest.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 were in Lyon Co. on 1 Aug (DCH) and 7 in Decatur Co. on 21 Aug (JDG); 1 in Decatur Co. on 29 Sep (JDG) is the third latest.

Sanderling: Many more than usual were reported and over a broad time span from 7 counties. The earliest was on 8 Aug at Colo (HZ), the peak of 30 at Rathbun Res. on 11 Oct (WMH, MAH, RC), and the second latest on record at Rathbun Res. on 29 Oct (RC). Another was late at Fairport on 23 Oct (TB, et al.).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 was late at the Fairport Fish Hatchery on 21 Oct (*JR). The Coralville Res. peak was 146 on 21 Aug and last on 17 Sep (MCN).

Western Sandpiper: 1 was at Sioux Center on 19 Aug (*GJB). Details were provided for 3 at Riverton A. on 13 Aug (CJB) and 10 at Coralville Res. on 28 Aug (MCN).

Least Sandpiper: The last seen were at Fairport on 23 Oct (JR).

White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 small, dark-legged sandpipers seen with Least Sandpipers exhibited white rumps when preening at Cherokee on 20 Oct (MMB). There are less than 10 fall records of this species, the latest from 10 Sep.

Baird's Sandpiper: Peak was 19 in Fremont Co. on 13 Aug (MCN); the last was seen in Sioux Center on 17 Oct (GJB).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Peak was 354 at Coralville Res. on 21 Aug (MCN); the last were 15 at Fairport on 23 Oct (JR).

Dunlin: Small numbers were seen from 10 to 23 Oct.

Stilt Sandpiper: Peaks were 52 at Coralville Res. on 21 Aug (MCN) and 50 at Sioux Center on 12 Oct (GJB); the last at Sioux Center on 25 Oct (GJB) are the latest on record.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: More than usual were reported: 2 at Amana on 3 Aug (CJB, LH), 1 at IPL Ponds on 5 Aug (B. J. Rose fide TB), 2 at Riverton A. on 12 Aug (CJB, MCN, TJS), 1-3 at Waterloo on 20, 27 Aug (RKM, FM), and 1-3 at Coralville Res. from 28 Aug to 17 Sep (MCN, et al.).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Sightings with diagnostic details were all from Coralville Res. (MCN, THK): 1-2 in alternate plumage (molting) on 13, 14 Aug; 1-15 juveniles on 21 Aug, 5, 10, 11 Sep.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 juvenile was described at Coralville Res. on 24 Sep (MCN) and 2 of unstated plumage were heard at Otter Creek M. on 29 Sep (PCP).

Common Snipe: 27 arrived early in Cherokee Co. on 1 Aug (MMB); 65 were at Doolittle Prairie on 16 Oct (SD).

American Woodcock: 1 was at Weise Sl. on 21 Oct (JR).

Wilson's Phalarope: 4 at Sioux Center on 19 Sep (GJB) tie the second late date; 1 at Coralville Res. on 17 Sep (MCN) was also late.

Franklin's Gull: Peak was 35 at Saylorville Res on 6 Oct (HZ) and 1 there on 25 Nov (JJD) is the second latest. Another was late at Red Rock Res. on 23 Nov (CJB).

Bonaparte's Gull: The first were noted at Coralville Res. on 16 Oct (THK); the peak was 50 at Saylorville Res. on 12 Nov (SD, JPSc).

Ring-billed Gull: 1 was early at Credit Island on 11 Aug (PCP). The first appeared at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep with peak of 1800 on 24 Nov (THK). This was dwarfed by 4500 at Saylorville on 20 Nov (SD, MD).

Sabine's Gull: A juvenile at Saylorville Res. on 10-23 Nov was photographed (THK, PCP) and documented (*EIA, *CJB, *TJS, *PCP, *THK, *JJD, *HZ, *MN, *FM, *RKM, *BPr, *BLW) for Iowa's fifth record (see Notes).

Caspian Tern: The first was at Nashua on 5 Sep (FM); the peak was 90 at Coralville Res. on 25 Sep (THK); and 4 at Rathbun Res. on 7 Nov (MAH) are the latest on record.

Common Tern: Birds with dark primaries were 8 at West L., Scott Co., on

28 Aug (GDW), 2 at Nashua on 5 Sep (FM), and 4 at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (THK, TJS, CJB).

Forster's Tern: 1 at Coralville Res. on 20 Oct (*BP_e) is the second latest on record.

Least Tern: 2 imm. were at IPL Ponds on 20 Aug (BP_a, LP_a).

Black Tern: Peaks were 40 at IPL Ponds on 20 Aug (BP_a, LP_a) and 30 at Coralville Res. on 10 Sep (RJH, MCN, CN). Record late birds were seen at Rathbun Res. on 9 Oct (MAH, WMH) and IPL Ponds/L. Manawa on 2 Oct (TB).

Black-billed Cuckoo: The last was on 11 Oct in Cherokee Co. (MMB).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 20 were in Webster Co. on 2 Aug (GDW); the last was in Mills Co. on 12 Oct (BLW). There were few data on cuckoos, but I talked to several people who felt that more lingered later than usual, perhaps due to the large crop of tent caterpillars.

Common Barn-Owl: 1 was found near Booneville on 25 Nov (EuA).

Snowy Owl: A sick bird picked up in NE Mills Co. on 15 Nov died (BLW, TB).

Long-eared Owl: 2 were at Saylorville Res. on 20 Nov (SD, MD) and one in Decatur Co. on 25 Nov (JDG).

Short-eared Owl: 5 reports from 4 counties.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 was called in by a Screech-Owl tape in Cherokee Co. on 10 Oct (MMB); 1 was in Cedar Falls on 9 Nov (RKM).

Common Nighthawk: Peak was 167 in Iowa City on 24 Aug (MCN); 1 at Ames on 18 Oct (PM) was the latest on record; other late dates were 2 Oct at Iowa City (RJH) and in NE Mills Co. (BLW) and 3 Oct at Fairfield (DCP).

Chuck-will's-widow: 1 at Waubonsie on 13 Aug (MCN) is the second latest.

Whip-poor-will: The last was n. of Ames on 2 Oct (SD).

Chimney Swift: 1000 swirled over Fairfield on 20 Sep (DCP); 1 at Ames on 19 Oct (PM) is the latest on record and 8 were in Johnson Co. on 14 Oct (TJS); October dates were reported from 3 other counties.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Peak was 12 at Lamoni on 11 Sep (JDG) and last in Iowa City on 5 Oct (TJS).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Birds lingered because of the good acorn crop (BLW).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The first was in Palo Alto Co. on 14 Aug (RVH); peak of 5 in Story Co. on 28 Aug (PM); and last in Ames on 28 Sep (PM), a second latest date.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: 22 were in Cherokee Co. on 30 Aug (MMB); 1 at Credit Island on 23 Oct was studied by many and call note heard (*BP_e). This is the latest record of this species.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: There were 7 reports from 21 Aug to 5 Oct from Davenport, Iowa City, Ames, and Winneshiek Co. (PCP, TJS, PM, THK).

Alder Flycatcher: Fall records for this species are unusual, but birds singing 'fee-be-o' were heard at Sweet M. on 5 Aug (RKM) and Hickory Hill P. on 8 Sep (TJS).

Eastern Kingbird: An imm. at L. Manawa on 2 Oct (TB) is the third latest.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 was reported from near Fontanelle, Adair Co., on 21 Jun (Scott Felker); another was seen in Ames on 31 Aug (Phillip Mulder).

Tree Swallow: 1-2000 were at Oakville on 31 Aug (PCP), Storm L. on 1 Oct (DBi), and Coralville Res. on 20 Oct (MCN); the last were reported on 29 Oct in NE Louisa Co. (PCP, MLP).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 500 at L. Manawa on 2 Oct (TB) are not only a large number but also the second latest date.

Cliff Swallow: 800 were in Cherokee Co. on 15 Aug (MMB).

Barn Swallow: The last was reported from Muscatine Co. on 23 Oct (JR).

Blue Jay: 225 were migrating in NE Mills Co. on 1 Oct (BLW) and 200 at Fairfield on 3 Oct (DCP).

American Crow: The Ames roost was forming with 215 birds on 25 Sep (JJD).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The first appeared n. of Akron on 20 Aug (HK)

in spite of the hot weather; 1 was at Davenport by 4 Sep (PCP) and Pocahontas by 21 Sep (RVH).

Brown Creeper: The first was reported on 8 Oct at Laurens (RVH).

Carolina Wren: Good news! Sightings from Davenport (PCP), Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (TB, JPSa), Marshalltown (fide BPr), Waterloo (FM), Cherokee (DBi, present over a year), and Iowa City (at Jim Fuller's house and seen by many at the IOU meeting).

Bewick's Wren: 1 was reported at Waterloo on 10 Aug (RKM).

House Wren: The last was at Weise Sl. on 21 Oct (JR).

Winter Wren: 8 were at Hickory Hill P. on 10 Oct (TJS).

Sedge Wren: 1 near Williams Prairie on 23 Oct (THK) is the third latest.

Marsh Wren: The last was at Coralville Res. on 23 Oct (BLW).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: A peak of 25 was at Ames on 9 Oct (PM).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 100 were noted in Fairfield on 11 Oct (DCP).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Singles were at L. Wapello on 13 Sep, Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 14 Sep, and Red Haw L. on 17 Sep (TB).

Eastern Bluebird: 100 were at Cherokee on 13 Oct (MMB).

Veery: 1 was at Hickory Hill P. on 11 Sep (THK, CJB, TJS).

Swainson's Thrush: early and late dates at Ames were 11 Sep and 9 Oct (PM).

Wood Thrush: 2 were at Fairfield on 6 Oct (DCP).

American Robin: Up to 300 were migrating in E Iowa on 21-23 Oct (THK, JR).

Varied Thrush: 1 was reported at Oak Grove P., Sioux Co., on 30 Oct (Gerald Schiefen fide DCH), a record early date.

Gray Catbird: The last was at Fairfield on 10 Oct (DCP).

Northern Mockingbird: The only report was from Cherokee Co. on 21 Oct (MMB).

Brown Thrasher: 1 in NE Mills Co. on 30 Nov was late (BLW).

Water Pipit: reports were from 7 Oct to 8 Nov with peak of 50 at Coralville Res. on 31 Oct (TJS).

Northern Shrike: 1 in Fayette Co. on 21 Nov (RKM); 1 in Black Hawk Co. on 29 Nov (FM).

Loggerhead Shrike: Singles were seen in Polk and Story counties on 24, 25 Nov (SD).

White-eyed Vireo: 2 in Wapello Co. on 1 Oct (RC) are the latest on record; others were at Hickory Hill P. until 22 Sep (TJS) and Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (THK, TJS, CJB).

Bell's Vireo: 1 at Sweet M. on 5 Aug was considered unusual for any time of year (RKM); 1 was at Willow S. on 3 Aug (TB, BPa).

Yellow-throated Vireo: The last was at Ames on 25 Sep (PM).

Philadelphia Vireo: 4 at Hickory Hill P. on 5 Oct (TJS) are the third latest; 1 was in Wapello Co. on 1 Oct (RC).

Blue-winged Warbler: 1 at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (THK); 2 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 14 Sep (TB).

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 at Hickory Hill P. on 2 Oct (RJH) is the latest on record.

Orange-crowned Warbler: The last was at Wildcat Den S.P. on 21 Oct (JR).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: peak of 17 on 13 Sep at Ames (PM).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 2 on 8 Sep and 1 on 22 Sep at Davenport (PCP); 1 at Ames on 11 Sep (PM).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: The first was noted at Ames on 17 Sep (PM).

Black-throated Green Warbler: The last was in Ames on 23 Oct (PM).

Blackburnian Warbler: The first was in Ames on 20 Aug (PM).

Pine Warbler: 5 sightings are unusual for this species: 31 Aug at Grammar Grove (*BPr), 6 Sep in Ames (*PM), 11 Sep at L. Wapello (*TB), 19 Sep in Davenport (*PCP), 2 Oct in Des Moines (*DT).

Cerulean Warbler: 1 was at Ames on 24 Aug (PM).

American Redstart: 1 at Credit Island on 23 Oct (PCP, et al.) ties the latest date.

Ovenbird: 1 was found dead on 12 Oct at Fairfield (DCP).

Northern Waterthrush: 1 arrived at Riverton A. by 13 Aug (MCN).

Mourning Warbler: 1 on 9 Aug at Bettendorf (PCP) is the earliest record.

- Common Yellowthroat:** 1 was still in Wapello Co. on 8 Oct (RC).
- Summer Tanager:** 1 at Davenport on 8 Aug (PCP); a female at Nine Eagle S.P. on 10 Aug (TB).
- Scarlet Tanager:** 1 at Hickory Hill P. on 12 Oct (TJS) is the third latest; 1 was at Fairfield on 4 Oct (DCP).
- Black-headed Grosbeak:** A female with burnt orange breast and fine streaking on sides was seen in Cherokee Co. (*MMB).
- Blue Grosbeak:** 4 males were n. of Cherokee on 13 Aug (DBi); 3 birds were in Fremont Co. on the same date (MCN).
- Dickcissel:** 1 was still at the home of Judy Carlson in Pocahontas Co. on 26 Nov (fide RVH).
- Rufous-sided Towhee:** Western race birds were at Laurens on 6 Oct (Everett Schmidt fide RVH) and in NE Mills Co. on 17 Oct (BLW).
- American Tree Sparrow:** The first was at Orange City on 9 Oct (GJB).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1 was heard at Coralville Res. on 22 Oct (FM).
- Savannah Sparrow:** 7 were late at Rathbun Res. on 12 Nov (RC); 5 were in Story Co. on 8 Nov (PM). I was surprised that these were first and third latest dates.
- Henslow's Sparrow:** 1 was seen e. of Swan L., Johnson Co., on 29 Sep (*TJS).
- Le Conte's Sparrow:** 13 at Rathbun Res. on 15 Oct (RC); 1 at Sweet M. on 9 Oct (FM, RKM).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** 50 were at Rathbun Res. on 23 Nov (RC).
- Harris' Sparrow:** 275 were seen in Cherokee Co. on 13 Oct (MMB).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** The first were noted at Fairfield on 6 Oct (DCP).
- Lapland Longspur:** 2000 in Story Co. on 29 Oct (PM) were the most reported.
- Snow Bunting:** 2 were early at Volga River A. on 29 Oct (RKM); the peak was 40 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Nov (SD, MD).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** a pair were seen in NE Mills Co. on 29 Oct (BLW); a flock of 120 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Nov (SD, JPSc, JJD) is quite unusual for Iowa; a male was described in Hardin Co. on 23 Nov (PH fide BPr).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** An adult was still feeding an immature at Riverton A. on 13 Aug (*MN)--see previous issue.
- Northern Oriole:** 1 was late at Ames on 13 Sep (PM).
- Pine Siskin:** The first were noted in O'Brien Co. on 12 Oct (DBi); other flocks of up to 40 were scattered about the state.
- Evening Grosbeak:** The first report of 2 at Swaledale (LG) was among 9 from N Iowa, 5 from C Iowa, and 3 from S Iowa.

CONTRIBUTORS

Eloise Armstrong, Booneville; Eugene Armstrong, Booneville; Russell P. Baldner, Calmar; Carl J. Bendorf, Iowa City; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Gordon J. Brand, Orange City; Tanya Bray, Omaha NE; Marion M. Brewer, Cherokee; Raymond Cummins, Centerville; James J. Dinsmore, Ames; Steve Dinsmore, Ames; Scott Felker, Ames; Lucille Gaffney, Swaledale; J. Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; James L. Hansen, Clear Lake; Ronald V. Harms, Laurens; Douglas C. Harr, Larchwood; Marjorie A. Heusinkveld, Centerville; Willis M. Heusinkveld, Centerville; Richard J. Hollis, Iowa City; Tim Huisman, Madrid; Thomas H. Kent, Iowa City; Hank Krause, Akron; Fred Leshner, La Crosse WI; Paul Martsching, Ames; Francis L. Moore, Waterloo; Phillip Mulder, Ames; Robert K. Myers, Waterloo; Michael C. Newlon, Iowa City; Bill Ohde, Mediapolis; Babs Padelford, Bellevue NE; Loren Padelford, Bellevue NE; Bruce Peterjohn, Westerville OH; Peter C. Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Diane C. Porter, Fairfield; Carl Priebe; Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb; John Robinson, Herrin IL; James P. Sandrock, Iowa City; Thomas J. Staudt, Iowa City; Dennis Thompson, Des Moines; Gerald D. White, Muscatine; Barbara L. Wilson, Hastings; and Hank Zaletel, Colo.

OTHER OBSERVERS

Cathryn A. Baldner (RPB); Corey Blevins (PCP); Don Bray (TB); Mark Dixon (SD); Timothy L. Dwyer (GDW); James Fuller (RJH); Lanny Haldy (CJB); Phyllis Harris (BPr); Russell Hays (FM, RKM); Darwin Koenig (TJS); Larry Linder (PCP); Carol McMillen (BPr); Carol Newlon (RJH); Mary Lou Petersen (PCP); Mark Proescholdt (BPr); Joseph P. Schaufenbuel (SD); W. Ross Silcock (TB, CJB); and Ramona Sommerlot (BPr).

COMMENT

With this reporting period I have started to file the data on my personal computer. Previously, the data was copied to notebooks containing a page for each species. With the computer, the data can be added in any order (It's still useful to have the data reported in species order, but not as critical). I have taught the computer how to recognize four letter abbreviations for species, locations, and observers and to play back the full names so that I can check them for accuracy. After all of the data are entered, the computer sorts the records by species and date. A report is then generated that lists species (with early and late record dates for reference); below each species name the records for the season are listed. During the report generation, the computer checks dates and flags unusual ones; it also flags non-regular species and documented reports. Locations are checked and the county and area of the state added automatically. Hopefully, I will be able to combine future files so that all of the data on a species is easily retrieved. With this system the recording of the data was a bit faster than by the hand method and went very fast when Carl Bendorf helped with the inputting into the computer. One of us evaluated the data and read to the other who was typing into the computer. The output was easier to evaluate than the previous hand written entries in notebooks, and the completeness and accuracy of the data was improved. From the 17 pages of primary data (676 individual sightings) and 57 documentations (of 21 species from 25 contributors), I typed the report into a computer file that already contained the headings and species names.

I have had some inquiries about my selection of records to report. It is helpful when contributors flag their most important observations. I might not appreciate some of the more unusual ones from western Iowa. Sometimes large numbers of birds from an area where a species is common obscure sightings from another area where the species is uncommon. In writing the report I try to look at the data without regard to the observer and choose that which seems most important. However, my choices are undoubtedly biased by my own experience. Not all contributors and other observers are cited in the text because their data may be covered in general statements. For example, there were several individual reports of Evening Grosbeaks this fall, but there were too many sightings to mention them individually. The data, however, are important and will be kept, and all contributors are listed.

The winter report for Dec, Jan, and Feb is due on 1 Mar. Again, I want to thank contributors for getting their reports in on time. I would rather have them early with a few later additions so I can spread out the job of compiling the data. The final sort and printout is a rather massive effort for the computer, but is the critical step that determines when I can start writing the report.